

**Minutes**  
**Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council**  
**Dorothea Dix Campus, Council Building Rm 201**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina**  
**June 21, 2006**

<b>Members Present</b>		
Sandra Farmer	Tonia Harrison	Charles Monnett
Martin Foil	Al Hart	Sharon Rhyne
David Forsythe	Stephen Hooper	Jo Perkins
Betty Gardner	Marilyn Lash	
Bob Gauldin	David Mills	

<b>Members Absent</b>		
David Atkinson	Patrick O'Brien	Jamesa Selleck
Spencer Clark	Holly Riddle	Elsie Siebelink
Lynn Freeman	Carol Robertson	
	Robert Seligson	

<b>Others Present</b>		
Veronica Bohannon	Denise Grant	Judy Herlihy
Ann Eller	Doug Harrison	Grey Powell
Sandy Ellsworth	Paula Hart	Jan White

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Rhyne, Chair, at 10:15 a.m. She welcomed all council members and guests and introductions were made.

**Review of Minutes:**

Ms. Rhyne requested that members review the minutes from the December 7, 2005 and March 15, 2006 council meeting. No corrections or additions were noted.

**Motion:** A motion was made by David Mills, seconded by David Forsythe. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

***DIVISION UPDATES***

**TBI Focus for FY'07**

Sandy Ellsworth reported that she and JanWhite have been working on long range plans for TBI. Some of those goals include providing education on traumatic brain injury through the HRSA Grant, identifying underserved populations and concentrating on geographic areas which have higher incidents of TBI. There will be new emphasis on providing less direct case management at the State level. Educating the LME's and providers on TBI will assist with case management. Ms. White stated that she is working closely with others in our Division focusing on the high incidence of falls in the aging population. She is now looking for an appropriate contact at the Division on Aging to begin further collaboration. Data shows falls account for more injuries in the geriatric population than motor vehicle crashes.

### **Review of FY06 TBI Allocations**

Ms. Ellsworth passed out a distribution chart of FY'06 state funds for TBI, \$1.7 million. The approximate distribution of funds is \$347,606 for contracted services, \$528,801 for client individual needs, \$595,000 for residential services, and \$123,622 for a miscellaneous category. A second chart showed allocations by region of the state.

### **Procedures for FY'07 TBI Allocations**

Ms. Ellsworth and Ms. White mailed a letter to all LME Directors explaining that TBI state funds are to be used after all other resources have been exhausted. If TBI state funds are requested by the LME, the request must be accompanied with an explanation of request. Allocation requests are usually provided to the LME to assist the LME in serving individuals who don't qualify for the other services or do not receive enough services to meet their needs. The funds are also to be used to support some group homes which specialize in serving individuals with TBI. Ms. White distributed a color coded chart of the counties in each LME.

Ms. Ellsworth will ask that the memo and form be placed on the DHHS website.

### **HRSA TBI Grant**

Ms. Ellsworth reported that the Federal HRSA grant for \$300,000 over a 3 year period will be used to assess the needs of the Local Management Entities and implement training. This grant will also fund the creation of a BIANC family resource center in the western region of the state. Ms. Ellsworth stated that she is working with the contracts department at the Division on developing the contracts for these funds.

### **TBI Advisory Council Membership Update**

Ms. Ellsworth reported that 6 names have been submitted to the appropriate entity to fill vacancies on the Council and we are waiting for an approval. Ms. Rhyne stated that this process needs to be top priority and Jo Perkins suggested that Alice Austin of the Governor's office be contacted to expedite the process. Ms. Ellsworth reported that the recommendations were sitting at the Legislative office for approval. When all positions are filled the council will have twenty-nine members.

### **TBI State Plan**

Ann Eller reported that she has met with Ms. White and Ms. Ellsworth to discuss a plan of action for updating the state plan. It is very important to perform a formal "needs assessment". The purpose of the "needs assessment" is to identify the percentage of individuals with TBI, address the service areas, service needs, and review resources that are already in place.

### **Legislation**

Sandra Farmer updated the Council on Senate Bills #1252 and 1255. A letter on behalf of the Council by Sharon Rhyne was sent to Senator Albertson and other senators on the appropriation committee urging support of these bills. Ms. Farmer suggested contacting the chairs of the appropriation budget committees stressing the importance of this funding and to stress the immediate need for the "needs assessment" to be carried out as soon as possible. It was reported that the bills were now out of Appropriations and had gone on to the conferees. Ms. Farmer will forward the list of House conferees to the Council.

### **Services for Students with Traumatic Brain Injury**

Mr. Mills gave a brief presentation on the services available for students with TBI that live in North Carolina. He shared several documents that show various NC school statistics, explained the parameters of Special Education, and the required screenings for identifying students with TBI. Data shows that 519 students were reported to have TBI as the unduplicated count of 12/01/05.

### **Committee Reports**

Betty Gardner, Health Services/Service Delivery/Needs Assessment Chair, led a discussion on residential and long term care facilities with TBI clients. There is concern that individuals in these facilities are not getting their TBI needs addressed. In order to assist those staff to identify clients with TBI, training on various disabilities should be provided for the staff. Ms. Gardner expressed concern that since training for these facilities is expensive, hopefully the Division of Mental Health will provide it free of charge. Ms. Ellsworth shared that the DMH was developing training on working with individuals with TBI for Mobile Crisis Teams. Mr. Stephen Hooper suggested developing a relationship with the Butner facility administrators to address the need for beds in the psych facility for the adult population and especially youth with TBI while the facility is in the development stage.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. The next meeting date is September 20, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Dix campus.

Respectfully submitted,  
Veronica Bohannon  
Program Support